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Urgent, Series A

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : RE - MR. Edward L. Frears

DATE: April 24, 1959

FROM : REB - David Henry

SUBJECT: Soviet Missiles in East Germany

RMS  
JMM-S  
→ NPL

In accordance with your request and Moscow's telegram No. 2117 of April 23, here is a brief summary of intelligence reports on the above subject.

The increasing number of sightings in East Germany of what appear to be missiles or missile-associated equipment indicates that Soviet forces may be receiving surface-to-air and short range surface-to-surface missiles. No other types of missiles have been reported thus far.

On March 18 on the rail line between Beeskow and Koenig-Wusterhausen, a reliable observer saw six to eight gondola cars carrying objects covered with white canvas and extending the full length of each car. These objects closely resembled equipment known to be associated with the surface-to-air missile which was displayed in the November 1957 parade in Moscow and which has been named GUIDELINE by Western intelligence. This, and other reports of a similar nature, have led the intelligence community to conclude that the Soviet forces in East Germany are being supplied with Guideline missiles.

Information on surface-to-surface missiles is more tenuous. In many instances reported sightings of Soviet surface-to-surface missiles have turned out to be mock-ups of US missiles (Redstone, Matador and Nike) used for the training of Soviet troops in missile recognition. However, on March 14, the British Military Liaison Mission to the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany photographed a missile with a well-machined body and a red star painted on its nose being towed toward the Wittstock training area 50 miles north of Berlin. This missile had the external characteristics of the 100 nautical mile surface-to-surface missile (SCUD) exhibited by the Soviets in the 1957 Moscow parade. It is considered likely that the missile sighted was a training missile and not capable of being fired in combat. However, genuine missiles could already be available in certain storage areas in East Germany for use by Soviet forces. A West German report dated April 22 stated that the GSFG now has on hand missiles of a type capable of attaining a range of 700-800 Kilometers. This report has not yet been evaluated by US intelligence.

There is nothing to indicate that missiles of any type are being supplied to the East German forces.

The intelligence reports on which the above information is based are classified SECRET.

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